

By Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,
Senate resolution disapproving of Executive Order 05-17.

Whereas, on January 15, 2017, the Governor signed Executive Order 05-17 providing for the creation of an “Agency of Economic Opportunity by reorganizing the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Labor,” and

Whereas, according to the Executive Order, effective April 17, 2017, “the Agency of Economic Opportunity shall administer” many of the “programs formerly administered by the Department of Labor,” including oversight over and enforcement of wage and hour laws, employment practices, the workers’ compensation program, and the unemployment compensation law, and

Whereas, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs has taken testimony and public comment concerning this Executive Order, and

Whereas, the Senate agrees with the Governor that “the goals of greater affordability, economic growth and optimal government efficacy require a stronger and more direct alignment of State government workforce training, recruitment and service programs with economic and community development activities,” and

Whereas, the Senate supports reorganizing State government to improve efficiency, to create a coherent and complete system of workforce training and

development, to meet employer demands better where there are workforce shortages, and to increase economic opportunity, and

Whereas, the Senate also wishes to ensure that the Governor's reorganization achieves these goals without leading to unintended consequences, and

Whereas, the Senate is concerned that having one agency fulfill the dual roles of both promoting and regulating business may not be efficient and may lead to conflicts between these two missions, and

Whereas, the Senate is especially concerned that workers' rights are protected and that any reorganization not weaken the Department of Labor's regulatory and adjudicatory functions, and

Whereas, the best mechanism to explore a merger of the appropriate functions and responsibilities of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and of the Department of Labor may be to use the standing committee process, with the resulting opportunity for enhanced research, analysis, and public participation, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2002, disapproves of Executive Order 05-17, *and be it further*

Resolved: [option # 1] That the Senate looks forward to working with Governor Scott, through the standing committee process, to develop legislation

that will achieve our shared objectives while also ensuring that workers' rights are protected, *and be it further*

- or -

Resolved: [option # 2] That the Senate looks forward to reviewing Governor Scott's proposals to achieve our shared objectives while also ensuring that workers' rights are protected, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott.